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*NOTE ON THE OSTRACA FROM SAMARIA*

In the account published in this REVIEW for January, 1911, of the discovery of Hebrew ostraca at Samaria in 1910, it was suggested by me that these seemed to be of the nature of labels indicating ownership, in some cases joint ownership. A more detailed examination has led me to modify this view in favor of that held by the discoverer, Professor Reisner. In his view the ostraca were memoranda sent from the country with jars of oil and wine. The name preceded by *lamed*, "to," "for," would then be that of the consignee, who was not necessarily the owner, and the names following would not indicate joint owners, but would be variously understood according to circumstances. In some cases the consignee's name is followed by that of his father, in others by that of the messenger, or of the messenger and the messenger's father, etc. Thus No. 49 would read: "In the 11th (?) year. From Kheleq. For Asâ [son of] Akhimelek. Ba'alâ [son of] Ba'alme'onî," Ba'alâ being the name of the messenger or porter.

In view of the importance of the ostraca, and of the wide-spread interest excited by their discovery, it is proposed to publish them in advance of the other results of the excavations.

The newspaper reports, that there have been found an Assyrian letter addressed to Ahab and a tablet containing the inventory of the furniture in his palace, are without foundation.

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